

Tenants Still Cling to Last Building on the Block



George Lascu

George Lascu, the 82-year-old superintendent at 1500 Boston Road, the only apartment house in the Charlotte Street neighborhood in which people still live, would not dream of being anywhere else.

"My secret?" said Mr. Lascu, who began living in the building in 1937. "I have no secrets. I just take care of my building. All the people here are just like a family, my family."

The building at 1500 Boston Road contains 39 one- or two-bedroom apartment, 37 of them occupied. The rent is \$140 to \$160 a month, and the apartments are decently kept.

"They better be," said Alice Myers, who lives in Apartment 22 and is the head of the 1500 Boston Road Tenants Association. She is the last word on what is right or wrong for her apartment house.

"People want to come in here," she said. "They see us (read that 'me') and if we approve of them, we let them rent an apartment." There is little turnover in the multiracial apartment house. Those who have been there stay because the building is like an anchor in a sea of desolation; those who have come recently are also there because of its stability.

Allen Holmes, a former Marine Corps sergeant and employee in a federally financed energy conservation program, lives in Apartment 62. He is enthusiastic about something that is common to most apartment dwellers but is a luxury in parts of the South Bronx.

"Just look at our lobby," he said. "We've still got mailboxes! When was the last time you saw mailboxes, in use, with numbers, with locks, around here?"

The New York Times

Published: October 21, 1977

Copyright © The New York Times